

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1700
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4451

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: PRESS AND PUBLIC

REFS: (A) USNATO 3829
(B) STATE 185002
(C) 4390
(D) USNATO 4406

1. SEVERAL POINTS SUGGESTED IN REF. A AS AREAS WHICH CAN RECEIVE SOME PUBLIC DISCUSSION WITHOUT COMPROMISE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND WITH CLEAR BENEFIT IN ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO AND US POSITIONS WERE NOT MENTIONED IN MAIN THEMES RECOMMENDED FOR INITIAL CHECKLIST IN REF. B. RECENT EVENTS (PRESS LEAKS IN U.S, DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES) REINFORCE OUR BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD CONSULT WITH ALLIES ON THESE POINTS AND THEN BE PREPARED TO BACKGROUND PRESS. ALLIES CLEARLY WISH TO EXPAND AGREED AREA OF ALLOWABLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION, MOVING IN DIRECTION OF MAXIMUM CONTROLLED RELEASE OF MAIN LINES OF WESTERN THINKING ON MBFR. RECENT LEAKS SHOW THAT SUCH A MAXIMAL INFORMATION POLICY WOULD NOT INCREASE PRESS SPECULATION AND DISCLOSURES, BUT WOULD LEAD INSTEAD TO PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION IN WHICH LEAKED FRAGMENTS WOULD BE PUT IN PERSPECTIVE
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AND INTELLIGIBLE CONTEXT.

2. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT NOW IS ABILITY TO ESTABLISH A CASE FOR EVENTUAL COMMON CEILING PROPOSAL. REVELATION OF NEGOTIATING GOAL,

ALREADY IMPLICIT IN U.S. PRESS AND PICKED UP WIDELY IN EUROPEAN PRESS, SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY PERSUASIVE EVOCATION OF REASONING LEADING TO THAT END.

3. FOLLOWING POINTS FROM REF. A, TO WHICH REF. B DID NOT RESPOND, DESERVE CONSIDERATION. THEY WILL CERTAINLY BE RAISED BY ALLIES IN CURRENT CONSULTATIONS OR BY PRESS IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING:

- NEED FOR SYMMETRY OF RESULTS. REF. A, PARA. 6C.

-CONSTRAINTS AND VERIFICATION. REF. A., PARA. 6D

- SELECTION OF UNITS FOR REDUCTION. REF. A., PARA. 6F.

-MBFR COMPLEXITIES. REF.A., PARA. 6G.

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